



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

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## **European Union**

### **FAIRS Product Specific**

# **Certification for Personal Meat and Dairy Imports 2002**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**Personal imports of meat and milk products in the EU will have to be accompanied by official veterinary documentation from 1 January 2003 onwards.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Brussels USEU [BE2], E2

**Summary**

Tighter rules on personal imports of meat and milk products in the EU will apply from 1 January 2003 onwards. Travelers arriving in the EU from the U.S. and many other non-EU countries will no longer be allowed to bring in personal imports of meat, meat products, milk or milk products, on their person or in their luggage, unless accompanied by official veterinary documentation.

**New legislation**

The new legislation on personal imports of meat and milk products in the EU was announced in a Commission press release. (The full text of the press release is available from: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health\\_consumer/library/press/press\\_food\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/library/press/press_food_en.html)). The legislation will suspend existing exceptions to import conditions and border controls that are granted for meat, milk and derived products brought by travelers for private consumption or sent to private persons. By abolishing the exception for personal imports, certification requirements for commercial shipments and for personal shipments will be identical. Contact information for the U.S. agencies issuing health certificates can be found at: <http://www.useu.be/agri/certification.html>.

The current derogations for personal use are respectively contained in Directive 72/462, covering fresh meat and meat products of domestic ruminants and swine; Directive 91/494 covering meat and meat products of poultry; and Directive 92/45 covering meat of wild game. The new legislation amending those three directives will enter into force on January 1, 2003 but will only be published in a special edition of the Official Journal on December 30, 2002.

**Background**

By abolishing the exceptions for personal use, the Commission is responding to the recommendations made by the FAO's European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease, the International Conference on the Prevention and Control of Foot and Mouth Disease and the European Parliament Temporary Committee on Foot and Mouth Disease. These forums identified the need to address the risk of spreading foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) via products obtained from animals susceptible to FMD when these products are illegally imported or when they are carried by travelers for their own consumption. This risk also exists for other major animal diseases such as Classical and African Swine Fever, and Avian Influenza. Furthermore, these recommendations identified the need for awareness campaigns to alert and inform travelers of the rules and the risks.

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